

Acyclovir Dosing Weight (For Adults)

Key Message:

- Acyclovir IV is dosed by weight.
- Usual dose range of 5 – 10 mg/kg, depending on the indication
- **Actual body weight** should be used to calculate the dose, **except in obesity**.
- If actual body weight is more than 125% of ideal body weight, then an **adjusted body weight** should be used to calculate the dose.
- Pharmacokinetic data suggest that adjusted body weight in obesity approximates drug exposure seen in non-obesity using actual body weight. One study showed no differences in AKI rates with adjusted body weight compared to IBW. (reference [SHC-ABX-Obesity-Dosing-Guide.pdf](#))
- See HPEI Firstline for renal dose adjustment recommendations for those with a CrCl less than 50 mL/min.

How to calculate adjusted body weight:

$$\text{Adjusted body weight} = \text{IBW} + 0.4 (\text{actual body weight} - \text{IBW})$$

- Online calculators are also available:
 - [Ideal Body Weight and Adjusted Body Weight](#)
 - [Adjusted Body Weight \(AIBW\) AND Ideal Body Weight \(IBW\) - GlobalRPH](#)

Vial Concentration and Dose Rounding

Vials for IV administration are available in 50 mg/mL concentration. Dose rounding to an easily measurable amount may be beneficial (ex: nearest 25 or 50 mg)

Resources for Antimicrobial Adult Dosing Recommendations in Obesity

1. Bugs and Drugs [Antimicrobial Adult Dosing Recommendations in Obesity](#)
2. [Stanford Health Care Antimicrobial Dosing Guide for Obesity](#)
3. For users of the Sanfords app → see “Obesity Dosing Adjustments”

This guidance is informed by Horizon Health and Nova Scotia Health Firstline, Lexicomp, Bugs and Drugs, Micromedex, Stanford Obesity Guide, and Sanford.

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